



Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 18, 2018

Selected readings: Psalm 51, John 12:20-33

The themes of repentance and renewal in today's Psalm, and the imagery of growing wheat in today's Gospel, remind me of a song by The Oh Hellos, a band I just happened to see in concert a little over a week ago. The song "I Have Made Mistakes" was the closing song of their show.

The message in these readings today, and the message that The Oh Hellos give us so clearly in their lyrics, is that we are all works in progress. And more than that, in regards to the ways we fail, we are probably going to continue to fail in very similar ways. But if we can learn something from these experiences, they are not simply sins we have committed. Here lies the main challenge for us, and something that I have been trying to incorporate into my daily spiritual practice this Lent – to take the time to reflect, pray, and learn from my mistakes. For me, this practice usually leads me to ask questions like:

"How could I have been more patient with that person?"

"Could I have let go of that argument and just let there be peace, instead of trying to prove I was right?"

"Could I have taken a few moments from my day to encourage someone instead of furiously focusing on my own work and world?"

These are difficult questions, but asking them and learning from these mistakes I keep making will help form me into the person God created me to be. What are those difficult questions for you? Find the courage to face them. For nothing is a waste, if you learn from it...it will make you whole.

-Ms. Tracy Lyons, Mathematics Department